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Parks and Recreation Minutes 05/15/2001

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:45 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Bernice Jones, Don Vitters, Joe Carabello, Mary Tegan and Mark McCabe. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Mark Shea of the Department of Public Works.

Public present included: Andrew Leonard, Adam York (Saturn), Brad Miller (Saturn), Alex Cheinets, C. Page, Beth Canaday, Josh Stillerman, John Galantowicz, Jonathan Lee, Liz Zotos, Dan Cupwell, Dave Ardito, Adam Glick, Judy Petrie, Jennifer Opp, John Coles, Greg Ginet, Charles Bloche, A. Tserkaris, Diane Mahon, Matt Carmody, Nancy Gilday, Ruby Tserkonis, Charles Chamallas, Irwin Grossman, Joe Hart, Jack Hurd and Steve Moniak and members of the ASC Board.

Saturn Playground Donation Cutter Playground

Mr. Vitters introduced the representatives from Saturn. Mr. York and Mr. Miller explained the reasoning for the donation, explaining the fatal bike accident last year. Mr. York explained the desire to name the playground Reinhart Playground at Cutter Park. The Commission and those in attendance did not have an issue with the renaming. Mr. Shea and Mr. Miller reviewed the type of structure that would be installed. Mr. York stated the build date was June 23. Mr. Shea explained that the Town would be handling the site prep and safety surfacing part of the project. Mrs. Jones suggested a notice to the abutters informing them of the date of the project. The Commission discussed landscaping for the project. Mr. Connelly stated that any landscaping would have to be completed as an alternate phase. The Commission suggested the neighborhood group make donations to the Park Beautification Fund for this project. The neighborhood group informed the Commission that they already have begun fundraising. The neighborhood group praised the generosity of Saturn.

Mr. Ardito commented on the style of the structure and the impact it would have on middle school students hanging around the facility. Mr. Ardito shared his concerns with any type of enclosed or hidden structure. The Commission and those in attendance discussed how to police the area. Saturn suggested the first 90 days after the structure was installed were the most crucial. Mr. Miller discussed the durability of the structure to vandalism. The Commission discussed the need to have the plan reviewed by a landscape architect. Mr. Shea will coordinate with Andrew Leonard. Mr. Carabello suggested that Mr. Connelly talk with the Principal of the Otis Middle School concerning the after school supervision. The Commission and those in attendance discussed the supervision issue in the park.

Mr. York indicated that the equipment was approximately \$22,000. Mr. Connelly indicated that if you counted the labor it was more like a \$45,000 playground. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Miller for a time frame for input. Mr. Miller indicated that he would like to order the equipment by the end of the week and get the CAD drawings to Mr. Shea ASAP. Mrs. Teagan stated that she did not like the geo structure for a variety of safety reasons. Mr. Miller stated that an alternate piece of equipment could be used. Mr. Connelly asked that written comments be sent to him by Thursday afternoon so that the Commission could review the feedback and let Saturn know by Friday. Mr. Vitters discussed color options. Mr. Shea reviewed the options with the Commission. The consensus of the Commission was that forest green would be appropriate. Mrs. Mahon suggested that Mr. Shea contact the Alan McClenan regarding the condo associations previous agreement to provide landscaping. Mr. Carabello asked Mr. Shea if the condo association was aware of this project. Mr. Shea indicated that he did have an earlier conversation with the association regarding use of the parking lot for a playground renovation project.

Those in attendance and the Commission thanked Saturn for their generosity. Saturn and the Cutter School Neighborhood group exited the meeting.

Thorndike Field Renovation

Landscape Architect Andrew Leonard reviewed the current plans and options for Thorndike Field. Mr. Leonard reviewed the problems with the flood plain and drainage. Members of the ASC board commented on the pitch of the field. Mr. Leonard and Mr. Connelly reviewed the option of sodding the field versus seeding. The Commission and Mr. Leonard discussed the benefits and

negative points of sod verses seed. Mr. Moniak discussed the scheduling of the new facility with the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that although he could not promise that Thorndike would be used for strictly soccer, it was the intent of the Commission to reduce the number of dual use fields whenever possible. Mr. Leonard reviewed the estimated construction cost:

Base Bid:

Strip topsoil to 8", regrade topsoil, irrigation, 2 drains lines, seed, portable soccer goals.	\$170,000-
\$200,000	
Premium for Sod	\$ 90,000
Under drainage for entire area below contour 7	\$ 75,000
Under drainage only for softball only	\$ 25,000
Injector pump to sewer outfall	\$ 30,000
Force main to parking lot drainage	\$ 10,000
Strip and remove all material to 18" depth, regrade,	
Install 4" gravel, 2" sand, prepared soil mix	\$750,000

The Commission agreed to bid the base bid with two alternates Alternate #1 would be the under drainage for the softball only and Alternate #2 would be sodding the field.

Mr. Leonard did explain the technical reasoning of why Magnolia and Hills Hill Field were not progressing as expected. Mr. Leonard cited the weather conditions and ice damage for Magnolia. Mr. Leonard stated that he was talking with the contractor for Hills Hill Field. He stated that the contractor should rake the field and reseed.

Little League Request for Batting Cage

Mr. Hart reviewed his request for a batting cage. Mr. Hart stated that his two choices were Poets Field and/or Scannell Field. The cage would be used for seasonal use only. Mr. Vitters asked that the netting be black. The Commission also asked Little League to provide a no golfing sign at the site. The Commission reviewed both locations. The Commission strongly believes that behind the storage box and parallel to the tennis courts at Poets Corner would be the best location. Mr. Connelly asked the Little League have the post be temporary if at all possible, similar to the temporary fencing. Mr. Hart indicated that Little League would be responsible for the construction. Mr. Hart stated that the batting cages would increase field availability for practice and provide a safer playing environment for kids, spectators and coaches.

Mr. Carabello motioned to approve the request for Poets Corner with the condition that the fabric be black in color and Little League provide the appropriate signage. Motion seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Capital Request Update/Town Meeting Presentation

The Commission discussed the revised Capital Plan. Mr. Carabello questioned the addition of Menotomy Rocks Park for \$60,000. The Commission asked why this was included in their capital request and not DPW. Mr. Connelly indicated that all the request for parks and playgrounds were lumped together under the heading of Natural Resources.

The Commission discussed Article 85 and the presentation. The Commission discussed the conditions of the fields and irrigation systems with Mr. Shea and Mr. Connelly. Mr. Carabello asked that the irrigation system maintenance and operations be contracted out to a professional company. Mr. Connelly and the Commission agreed. Mr. Shea will talk to Mr. Bento about this possible change.

Mr. Vitters reviewed the new Peirce School Playground design and the changes from the original design. Mr. Vitters and Mrs. Tegan pointed out the increase in the building size which effect the amount of space on site.

Concession Stand 2001-2002 Budget

Mr. Connelly reviewed the 2001-2001 Concession Stand Budget. Mr. Carabello and the Commission questioned the re-imbursement to the hockey club and two high schools. Mr. Connelly reviewed the arrangement and stated that it was very successful this past year. The Commission approved the 2001-2001 budget 5-0.

Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of April 10, 2001. Mrs. Jones motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

The Commission adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joseph J. Connelly, Supt. of Recreation

